

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of May 22, 2008 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 12 - 22 have been examined with the following result: claims 12 - 22 are rejected as indefinite under 35 USC 112, second paragraph; claim 12 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) by Slawinski et al; claims 13, 14 and 19 - 22 under 35 USC 103(a) over Slawinski et al; claims 12, 15 - 18, 21 and 22 under 35 USC 102(b) by Gerst et al; and claims 12 and 14 under 35 USC 102(b) by Hommel.

In reply, claims 12, 13 and 22 have been amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejection and claim 12 amended to include the subject matter of claims 15 and 19 to insure that the present invention clearly defines over the art of record.

In view of the amendment to claim 12, the only rejection remaining for consideration is the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) by Gerst et al. This rejection as applied against claim 12 as filed and as amended is respectfully traversed.

Claim 12 defines a transmitter which measures the same parameter (pressure) with a set of equally constructed sensors. This means that each sensor should provide essentially the same value for the pressure, if the sensors are operating properly. Deviations between the readings obtained from the sensors is indicative of a sensor problem (sensor failure, for example). This problem is addressed by the present invention and solved by the present invention by providing a set of equally constructed sensors which are arranged on a single base plate and which are produced in a batch process. This results in a number of specific advantages, namely, the sensors are located in close proximity since they are located on a single base plate. Also, the sensors have a similar initial performance since they are produced in the same batch process. Under these circumstances, one can assume that the equally constructed sensors should provide essentially the same output for the pressure to be measured. Thus, the claimed transmitter is particularly suitable for an early detection of sensor degradation. Deviations between different sensor readings, can be attributed to sensor

degradation since deviations due to spaced apart locations of the sensors, and deviations based on minor variations between different batches in the manufacturing process of the sensors, can be ruled out.

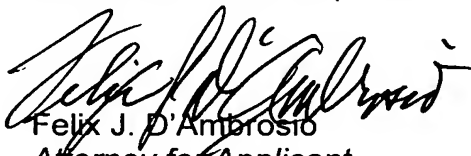
The transmitter of the invention, as claimed, is in a position to detect sensor degradation earlier than transmitter found in the prior art of record, and, therefore, is particularly suitable for predictive maintenance and condition monitoring.

In particular, Gerst et al, a differential pressure is measured and not with equally constructed sensors. Gerst et al, cannot therefore anticipate claim 12, nor the claims dependent therefrom.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 12 - 14, 16 - 18, 20 and 21 found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,
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